

Claims

1. A method for operating a terminal device (MS) in a radio communication system (WLAN), wherein
 - 5 the terminal device is only authorized for operation in the radio communication system if a confirmation is present to the effect that the terminal device will be checked for proper functional integrity while it is operating.
- 10 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein
 - a confirmation signal (5, 6, S2) is provided which, in the event of being transferred to the terminal device (MS), specifies that the terminal device will be checked while it is operating,
 - and the terminal device is authorized for operation in the
 - 15 communication system (WLAN) by the confirmation signal being sent to the terminal device.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein
 - prior to its authorization for operation in the communication
 - 20 system (WLAN) the terminal device (MS) sends a request signal (3, S1) to a confirmation unit (CU)
 - and the confirmation unit initiates the checking of the terminal device as a result of the request signal and sends the confirmation signal (5, 6, S2) to the terminal device.
- 25 4. The method according to claim 3, wherein
 - for sending the request signal (3, S1) to the confirmation unit (CU) the terminal device (MS) uses an address (ADR) of the confirmation unit stored previously in the terminal device, which is predefined
 - 30 for use by a large number of terminal devices at least in this communication system (WLAN).
5. The method according to one of claims 3 or 4, wherein
 - the terminal device (MS) only sends the request signal (3, S1) after
 - 35 a predefined period of time (t) has elapsed following a registration performed by the terminal device with the communication network (WLAN), during which period it has not already automatically received the confirmation signal (5, 6, S2).

6. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein
- a plurality of devices (SP, SP') are capable of performing checking of the terminal device for proper functional integrity while it is operating,
 - and prior to performing the check the method determines which of these devices (SP, SP') is performing the checking of the terminal device.
7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the determination of which device (SP) is performing the check is carried out in such a way that the device is located in closest possible proximity to the terminal device (MS).
8. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein
- the terminal device (MS) itself is defined as the device for performing the check
 - and software (SW) needed for performing the check is delivered to the terminal device by way of an air interface.
9. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein during checking of the terminal device (MS), signals (S) to be transferred by the latter are checked for compliance with at least one particular quality criterion whose value is dependent on where the terminal device is situated within the radio communication system (WLAN).
10. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein after authorization of the terminal device (MS) for operation, the further operation of the terminal device in the communication system (WLAN) is then only subsequently refused if the check on the terminal device during operation has yielded a certain number of errors or an error which exceeds a particular threshold value.
11. A radio communication system (WLAN)
- having a terminal device (MS),
 - having a confirmation unit (CU) with a device (SPU) for generating a confirmation signal (5, 6, S2) from which it can be inferred

that the terminal device will be checked for proper functional integrity while it is operating, and with a transmit device (SPTX) for sending the confirmation signal to the terminal device,

- whose terminal device has a receive device (MSRX) for receiving the confirmation signal,
- and whose terminal device has a deactivation unit (DA) which only permits further operation of the terminal device if the receive device has received the confirmation signal.

10 12. A terminal device (MS) for a radio communication system (WLAN),
- having a receive device (MSRX) for receiving a confirmation signal (5, 6, S2) from a confirmation unit (CU) of the communication system, from which it can be inferred that that the terminal device will be checked for proper functional integrity while it is
15 operating in the communication system,

- and having a deactivation device (DA) which only permits further operation of the terminal device if the receive device has received the confirmation signal.

20 13. A confirmation unit (CU) for a radio communication system (WLAN)
- having a device (SP) for generating a confirmation signal (5, 6, S2), from which it can be inferred that a terminal device (MS) will be checked for proper functional integrity while it is operating in the communication system,

- 25 - and having a transmit device for sending the confirmation signal to the terminal device.